

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 79 is pending. In the present amendment, Claim 79 is amended, and Claims 55-78 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original claims and specification. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 66, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yukimachi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,501,444, hereinafter "Yukimachi") in view of Williams (U.S. Patent No. 5,575,467); and Claim 79 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claim 79 is rewritten in independent form, including the subject matter of canceled Claim 67. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that amended Claim 79 be allowed.

In response to the rejection of Claims 66, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, and 77, Applicant respectfully submits that, as these claims are hereby canceled, this rejection is moot.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

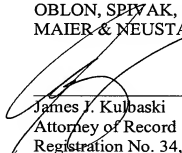
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 03/06)

GJM:ATH:CBH\la



---

James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

Andrew T. Harry  
Registration No. 56,959